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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
WHEELING, February 4, 1865. }

TO GEN. LEE ROY KRAMER,

Speaker House of Delegates :

It affords me pleasure to transmit for the action of the Legislature, a communication of the Secretary of State of the United States, accompanied by a resolution adopted by Congress, "submitting to the Legislature of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States."

I have the honor to be,

Very Respectfully,

A. I. BOREMAN.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
WASHINGTON, 2d February, 1865. }

TO HIS EXCELLENCY :

The Governor of the State of West Virginia,

Wheeling, West Virginia :

Sir :—I transmit an attested copy of a Joint Resolution of Congress, approved on the 1st instant, proposing to the Legislatures of the several States, a Thirteenth Article to the Constitution of the United States. Your Excellency is requested to cause the decision of the Legislature of West Virginia to be taken upon the subject. An acknowledgment of the receipt of this is requested by

Your Excellency's

Most obedient servant,

(Signed)

F. W. SEWARD,

Acting Secretary.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

DEPARTMENT



OF STATE.

To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting :

I certify, That annexed is a true copy of a Joint Resolution of Congress, entitled "A Resolution submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States," the original of which is on file in this department:

In Testimony Whereof, I, William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, have hereunto subscribed my name, and caused the seal of the Department of State to be affixed. Done at the City of Washington, this second day of February, A. D., 1865, and of the Independence of the United States of America the 89th.

(Signed)

WILLIAM H. SEWARD.

A RESOLUTION

Submitting to the Legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States :

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America, in Congress assembled, (two-thirds of both houses concurring,) That the following Article be proposed to the Legislatures of the several States, as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as a part of the said Constitution, namely :

ARTICLE XIII.

SECTION I. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction.

SECTION II. Congress shall have power to enforce this Article by appropriate legislation.

Approved, February 1, 1865.